

EPA Region 10 Recommendations for Incorporating Source Water Protection into the Federal Land Management Planning Process

Definitions:

- Source Water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, springs, and aquifers that is used as a supply of drinking water. Source Water Areas are the sources of drinking water delineated and mapped by the states for each federally-regulated public water system.
- A federally-regulated public water system provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year.

Steps to Take to Incorporate Source Water Protection into Your Plans and Projects:

1. Identify Source Water Areas within your land management area

- Look at the available data:
 - States have mapped Source Water Areas for federally-regulated public water systems
 - Source Water Areas present on your land may be associated with public water systems that your agency owns or operates, or they may be for public water systems owned or operated by other entities. Source Water Areas that overlap with your land management area may be associated with public water systems wells or surface water intakes that are physically located beyond the borders of your land area. All Source Water Areas need to be protected, regardless of who owns/operates the water system, or the physical location of the water system well or intake.
 - Data from the states:
 - Oregon and Idaho: Maps of the Source Water Areas for federal lands in Oregon and Idaho were mailed to you with your workshop invitation. The Source Water Assessments are available on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/dwp/dwphome.htm>) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/data_reports/source_water/reports.cfm) websites.
 - Alaska: The Alaska Region of the Forest Service developed a data share agreement with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and now has an electronic copy of the AK source water data. The BLM can also request the AK source water data from ADEC.
 - Washington: The Washington State Department of Health has developed maps of Source Water Areas overlain on Forest Service lands. GIS data can be requested from WA State Dept

of Health. All Washington Source Water Areas will soon be available via a password-protected website.

- Contact the State Source Water Protection Program to determine whether you have all current information available at the time of your planning process. The list of active public water systems is subject to change as systems come on-line or go off-line, so it is best to check for up-to-date information.
 - State contacts:
 - AK: Suzan Hill, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 907-269-7521, Suzan_Hill@dec.state.ak.us
 - ID: Todd Maguire, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 208-373-0115, todd.maguire@deq.idaho.gov
 - OR: Sheree Stewart, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 503-229-5413, STEWART.Sheree@deq.state.or.us
 - WA: David Jennings, Washington State Department of Health, 360-236-3149, David.Jennings@DOH.WA.GOV
 - Ask the State contacts for information about state-regulated drinking water systems. These systems are smaller than those that fall under federal drinking water regulations, but human health concerns are very real and their source of drinking water should be taken into account when planning land use activities.

2. If Source Water Areas are present in your land areas:

- Review the source water assessment completed by the State.
- Inventory potential contaminant sources within the Source Water Area.
- Identify land management activities that might impact drinking water.
- Contact the public water system operator.
 - Include the name and contact information for the water system operator in your plan.
 - Work with the water system operator to determine when to notify the water system about activities that will be conducted on federal lands
 - Determine the types of activities they want to be notified about
 - Determine an appropriate schedule for notification
 - Determine other information sharing that should take place

3. Select appropriate BMPs to address decreasing the risk from all identified potential contaminant sources under your control. (See BMP handout.)

4. Involve the public

- Work with communities to ensure that the community is informed of planned projects
- Follow all appropriate NEPA protocols for informing the public

5. Monitor

- Address Source Water Areas in monitoring plans
- If an activity within a Source Water Area could negatively impact drinking water quality, evaluate alternatives to mitigate the impact.